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Near East & South Asia

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Foreign Loans Estimated at 10 Billion Dollars

92AS0631C London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] In order to provide projected funds needed for the Five-Year Developmental Plan, so far the Islamic Republic has received about \$10 billion in loans and credit from foreign sources. According to reports from Tehran, the efforts of the economic officials of the Islamic Republic to obtain more loans from financial establishments, foreign banks, and Western industrial countries continue, and the regime is determined under the pretext of providing for its financial shortages, to receive at least by the end of next year another \$7.4 billion in loans. An official of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic announced some time ago that the country will have no problems providing the rest of the financial credit it needs. This official considered receiving 4 billion DM [Deutsche marks] from Germany an indication of the success of the regime in receiving funds from abroad and added that the World Bank has also recently agreed to provide part of the funds needed by Iran. In the past two years, the Islamic Republic has received loans from many foreign countries and financial establishments, including France, Germany, Japan, the World Bank, and other sources whose names have not been revealed. Moreover, through the presale of significant amounts of crude oil and petrochemical products to Japan and several European consortiums, it has gained significant amounts of foreign currency. Financial experts have estimated the total amount in loans received by the Islamic regime of Tehran at \$14 to \$16 billion and believe that that country has spent a significant portion of these funds from foreign sources on the purchase of weapons from various countries of the world and for the implementation of internal defense plans.

Paper on Growing Relations With Sweden

92AS0592B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
12 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] Tehran—16 Bahman—5 February—In his talks with the acting foreign minister of Sweden, our nation's deputy minister of foreign affairs emphasized the need to increase political and economic relations between the two countries.

Mahmud Va'ez, our nation's deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, met and spoke separately with the Swedish minister of international cooperation and the acting foreign minister of Sweden.

In his meeting with the Swedish minister of international cooperation, Va'ez discussed the presence of millions of Iraqi and Afghani refugees in Iran and expressed the hope that other countries, including Sweden, will take effective steps to help these refugees.

He said: Iran wants to be a factor for stability and peace in the Persian Gulf area, and in view of this desire it

gives special attention to the problems of the people of the Central Asian Republics.

At this meeting the Swedish minister of international cooperation also expressed pleasure at the level of bilateral cooperation, and praised Iran for its help to the refugees.

In his meeting with the acting foreign minister of Sweden, Va'ez noted that the volume of economic ties between the two nations in the current year has exceeded \$1 billion, and he emphasized the need for more political and economic contacts between the two countries as well as cooperation in international affairs and creating a balance between the political and economic cooperation.

In this round of talks the changes arising from the collapse of the former Soviet Union were also discussed and studied in detail.

Report on Agreement With Alsthom of France

92AS0592H Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
12 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] Paris—IRNA—9 Day—29 January—The Islamic Republic of Iran recently signed a contract purchasing two turbo alternators from the French G.A.S. Alsthom Company.

The economic newspaper LA TRIBUNE published in Paris, in printing this report, added: These units were purchased for the Arak Electrical Center.

This newspaper writes that the G.A.S. Alsthom Company will take on the task of building an electrical center in Arak with a capacity of 1,100 megawatts, in a consortium with American, Canadian, and Italian companies.

LA TRIBUNE added: The share of the French company in this contract, which totals 4 billion francs, or about \$800 million, has not been stated.

LA TRIBUNE noted: Since the onset of commercial relations between Tehran and Paris, the G.A.S. Alsthom Company has signed several contracts with Iran totaling 3 billion francs in the area of producing and distributing energy.

Paper on Last-Minute Contract Cancellation With France

92AS0645K London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] The representatives of the famous Alsthom Company of France had just taken their pens out of their pockets to sign an important agreement with the Islamic Republic to build a power plant when their pens froze in their hands. Without explanation, the representatives of the Islamic Republic said that the above-mentioned power plant, contrary to what had been stated in the contract, had to be built in Arak and not Tabriz.

No matter how the French insisted that all the calculations had been arrived at based on building the power

plant in Tabriz, and in order to build a power plant in Arak new calculations would have to be made, the representatives of the Tehran regime would not listen, and the agreement was canceled.

The French went to higher authorities in the Islamic Republic to find out the reason behind this sudden decision change precisely at the moment when it was to be signed and got nothing but lame excuses. In any case, the issue was more important than the simple abandonment of the agreement.

It was later discovered that the U.S. General Motors Company, during long, secret negotiations with the clerics, was able to snatch the agreement to build a power plant in Tabriz from the French, to show that it is not only the French who can take back with one hand the money that they give to the Islamic Republic with the other.

Economic, Legal Relations With Germany Expanding

92AS0592G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 5 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] Tehran—10 Bahman—30 January—During his trip to Tehran, Dr. Klaus Kinkel, German Minister of Justice, met with the president of the republic, the chief justice, the minister of the interior, and the chief of the National Supreme Court, and discussed with them the expansion of economic and legal relations between the two countries.

In his meeting with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Dr. Kinkel delivered a verbal message to him from the German prime minister emphasizing the expansion of relations between the two countries. He said:

So far we have had good political, economic, and cultural relations. The purpose of my trip is to begin legal cooperation between the two nations. It is important that the German Government wants relations with Iran and we hope that in the future relations between the two nations will develop more rapidly.

At this meeting the president of the republic expressed the desire to expand cooperation between Iran and Germany, and he noted the feeling of confidence and trust in relations between the two nations as an important and basic principle. He said it is hoped that with the implementation of commercial and economic contracts between the two nations bilateral relations will expand further.

Meeting With Judiciary Chief

In his meeting with the German minister of justice, Ayatollah Yazdi, chief of the judiciary, announced that Germany is the heart of Europe, and that it can play the biggest role in the future formation of human society. He said:

More effective steps must be taken under current conditions to defend human rights throughout the world, and in view of the world's need, we can take steps to form a competent international authority, while retaining the sovereignty of nations.

At this meeting the German minister of justice also said during a talk: Germany is determined to expand and deepen its relations with Iran, and Mr. Genscher, the German foreign minister, has been working for some time to create a competent international organization to address human rights affairs.

Meeting With Chief of National Supreme Court

The German minister of justice met with Ayatollah Moqteda'i, chief of the National Supreme Court, and discussed Iran's judicial organizations and laws. He said: There is much similarity between your country's laws and judicial system and our judicial system in Germany, and we are very satisfied with your judiciary's independence.

At this meeting the chief of the nation's Supreme Court discussed the judicial organizations and the existing laws in Iran. He said: To exercise supreme supervision over the primary court judges, in the Islamic Republic of Iran there are branches of the supreme court as the highest judicial authority, and if the decisions in the primary courts are in violation, their verdicts will be voided and the case will be referred to another court for retrial.

He also rejected the bad propaganda from the Western nations concerning human rights violations in Iran. He said: In Islam and in our laws, more than anything else attention has been given to the individual and social rights of the people, and the things that are being said by the Western nations about human rights violations in Iran are the result of their lack of awareness, and we hope that you will give special attention to this matter.

The German minister of justice also met and spoke with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nuri, minister of the interior.

German Firm To Establish Telephone Center in Tehran

92AS0481A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 24 Dec 91 p 2 11

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] The German company, Standard Electric Lawrence, S.E.L., will build a 60,000-line telephone center in Tehran.

Earlier, this company installed a 30,000-line telephone center for the communication company in Tehran. With the implementation of the above-mentioned project, this telephone center will also expand.

According to S.E.L., the 10,000-line communications center operates at high capacity. Only a few producers can provide such centers.

This report also indicates: The S.E.L., which belongs to (Elkatel) of France, received orders for 34 urban and long-distance telephone centers in Iran, which will operate with 450,000 telephone lines.

This company has built a factory in Shiraz to supply some of the technological needs of this center, which offers the domestic products for use in that center.

Joint Housing Construction With Germany

92AS0592D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
12 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] Tehran—IRNA—9 Bahman—29 January—Iran proposed joint investments to Germany to build and equip 100,000 housing units.

Engineer 'Ali Kamrava, deputy minister of housing and urban construction for housing, proposed this at the joint Iran-Germany symposium on construction industries held at the home of the Syndicate for Construction Companies.

IRNA reports that at this symposium, which was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction, the Syndicate for Construction Companies and several German building construction companies, Engineer Kamrava said: At the conclusion of the imposed war the urban population was 55 percent of the total population and the rural population was 45 percent of the total population.

He gave several statistics on the expenses of each family and said: In Iran 35 percent of a family's expenses are for housing. Engineer Kamrava added: Already 47 percent of the total national investments are going into housing, and this does not indicate a desirable situation.

The deputy minister of housing and urban construction for housing emphasized: In the housing sector it has been predicted that 95 percent of the investments are being made by the private sector, and 5 percent are being made by the government, and the latest assessment shows that the government's share is less than what it should be, and the private-sector's share is greater.

He said: Mass housing construction requires advanced technology and in this regard the Ministry of Housing and Urban Construction and the private sector are prepared for every kind of cooperation. He proposed that a group of German construction and machinery manufacturing companies and a group of these companies in Iran agree to build 100,000 housing units in the next five years and in this regard the government will be prepared to bring foreign investors' foreign exchange into Iran at stabilized prices and to export it at the same price along with the profit earned from it, which is the rate of floating foreign exchange.

He said: At this symposium, Von Lufnische, German deputy minister of building climate and urban construction said in a talk: The signing of the note of mutual understanding, which was done during the German minister of economics' trip to Tehran, was the beginning of extensive cooperation between Iran and Germany. He emphasized that Germany is prepared for any kind of joint cooperation and also to invest in this area. He noted: In the area of joint investments, the companies producing construction raw materials and the German machinery manufacturing industries are prepared to cooperate extensively with Iran.

Engineer Seyyed Reza Hashemi, deputy minister of urban construction affairs to our nation's minister of housing and urban construction, said: In the period since the note of mutual understanding was signed (9 Tir 1370) (30 June 1991) we have seen extensive cooperation with Germany on various economic matters.

In conclusion he called for the elimination of the likely obstacles and problems obstructing joint cooperation between the two countries. At this same symposium, which was attended by about 500 private sector and government engineers and housing experts, Engineer Javad Khansari, secretary of the Syndicate for Construction Companies, also discussed the special place for the construction industries in Iran's economy. He said: There are now 600 construction companies in Tehran along with 1,200 companies in other parts of the country, working with about 10,000 engineers.

Krupp To Complete Petrochemical Complex

92AS0631J London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] The (Krupp) industries of Germany won the rights of a major contract to complete the Bandar Shahpur petrochemical complex. The value of the contract in question is estimated at 450 million DM [Deutsche marks] (about \$300 million) and the engineers and experts of (Krupp) industries are charged with completing several parts of the Bandar Shahpur petrochemical complex and bringing it to operation. In implementing the plan to complete the Bandar Shahpur petrochemical complex, a German consortium in which other large companies participate will also assist the (Krupp) company. Andrew Baxter, the industrial reporter of the FINANCIAL TIMES of London, reported on the activities of the (Krupp) industries of Germany in Iran and wrote that the cost of the implementing the plan to complete the Bandar Shahpur petrochemical complex will be provided by the German and Italians on behalf of (Krupp). The above-mentioned analyst wrote: "The Bandar Shahpur petrochemical complex will produce 175,000 tons of PVC [polyvinyl chloride] annually."

In another part of his article, he pointed out that the products of this petrochemical unit will be used in the Iranian plastics industries, and the expansion of these

industries in Iran will cause increased demand to purchase machinery and equipment from Germany and other industrial countries.

Tehran Connected to Nairobi, Havana by Air

92AS0631L London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 92 p 4

[Interview with 'Ali Mohammad Nurian, the deputy minister of roads and transports of the Islamic Republic and head of the National Airlines Organization, by reporters; place and date not given]

[Text] The National Airlines Organization intends to establish routes between Mehrabad Airport, the Nairobi Airport (Kenya), and Havana Airport (Cuba) in an effort to expand its international connections in the near future. 'Ali Mohammad Nurian, the deputy minister of roads and transports of the Islamic Republic and head of the National Airlines Organization, said to reporters some time ago in a press conference that the air connections between Tehran, Kenya, and Cuba will be established to expand the network of air connections between Tehran and other cities of the world. The above-mentioned official announced that by 1376 [21 March 1997-20 March 1998], Tehran will have another international airport. The deputy minister of roads and transports, pointing out that the name of the Tehran international airport will be "Imam Khomeyni," said: The first phase of the plans to build this airport will cost about 400 billion rials.

In continuation, 'Ali Mohammad Nurian said to the representatives of the media that the second phase of the plan for the great Tehran airport will take 10 years, and the capacity for passenger transfers at this airport will amount to 18 million people annually. The above-mentioned official also announced that in addition to the government, the national banks and the private sector will participate in providing the necessary budget for this airport.

The deputy for the National Airlines Organization said in his press conference that by the end of 1995 the regime intends to build a total of 21 airports in various areas of the country. He pointed out that in addition to building the new airports, the National Airlines Organization is trying to expand the present airports in the country and equip them with new facilities. An informed official told KEYHAN that a major part of the radar equipment, observation towers, electronic devices, and computer systems for the Iranian airports will be procured from one of the international companies affiliated with the British Communications Company.

According to the report in MEED, a weekly published in London, the National Airlines Organization intends to allow Abadan Airport to resume its international activities in early 1993.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Official Encourages Investment in Muslim Republics

92AS0481E Tehran ABRAR in Persian 31 Dec 91 p 9

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] **With the disintegration of the communist regime in the former Soviet Union, opportunities for joint investments and for cooperation in industry and commerce in the Asian and Muslim republics has been provided for the industries, the production sector and commerce of the Islamic Republic.**

Engineer Parhizkar, the governor general of eastern Azerbaijan, made this announcement yesterday morning before a group of directors of production and industrial units in a meeting of the council of the factories of that province, and said: In this area, the Republic of Azerbaijan has particular characteristics. He explained that profitability and rapid return on the joint industrial investments are among these characteristics and added:

Various economic sectors of that republic have been facilitated. Among them, the expediting of border crossing regulations, the increase in communication lines between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the creation of a branch of the Iranian National Bank in that republic to expedite payments and receipts can be mentioned.

In conclusion, emphasizing the active and serious presence of the Iranian investors and industrial units in that republic, he mentioned the huge planned investments by Western countries, especially Taiwan, Turkey, and Japan [as published], as a serious threat to authentic Islam.

Tunisian Prisoners Taken During War With Iraq Returned

92AS0591D London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] Last week, Iran delivered to the Tunisian Embassy in Tehran seven Tunisian soldiers who had been taken prisoner during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. In ceremonies held for this purpose at the embassy of that country, the ambassador of Tunisia in Tehran spoke about the good relations that have been created between the two countries. Some time ago, the Islamic Republic also released Sudanese, Egyptian, and Jordanian soldiers that had been fighting Iran alongside the Iraqi forces.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Moqtada'i on New Appointment, Returning Iranians

92AS0650D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 8 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] The chief of the National Supreme Court said: The rapid implementation of Islamic restrictions and punishments has created peace and security in society and has reduced crime.

Ayatollah Moqtada'i, chief of the National Supreme Court, discussed the above at the ceremonies introducing the new chief of the Judicial Organization of the Fars Province Armed Forces. He noted: The law must be the same for everyone, and it must not be applied in such a manner as to punish someone who is weak for committing a crime, and allow a powerful person to escape lawful punishment.

He pointed to the Armed Forces Judicial Organization. He said: The armed forces courts aim to strengthen, reinforce, and preserve the laws and regulations governing these forces.

He ended by praising the efforts of Hojjat ol-Eslam Shafi'i, former chief of the Armed Forces Judicial Organization, and introducing Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Musavi-Nezhad as the new chief of this organization.

During his trip to Shiraz, Ayatollah Moqtada'i discussed with news correspondents the case of the Nabovat Foundation. He said: This case is before the Tehran Revolutionary Court and several sessions have already been held; after a full investigation the court will issue its verdict.

Discussing the return of the idolaters and the return of their assets, he said: In general, the cases for which final verdicts were issued at the beginning of the revolution cannot be reviewed except in special cases where assets have been frozen and the owner can present documents that establish his ownership, and even in these cases consideration must be given to the circumstances of those who are currently using those assets.

Concerning press violations, he said: According to the law a special court is convened in these cases attended by a jury, but sometimes some reporters publish reports which are not documented or there is evidence that they are not truthful. In these cases the rule is that the complaints of individuals concerning these reports are investigated.

We expect the toiling brothers of the press to adhere to the standards when collecting their reports.

The chief of the National Supreme Court discussed the performance of the Fars judiciary. He said: Because of the failure to implement judicial decrees for punishments and restrictions, the public comments that some insurgent and corrupt individuals have become bolder about generating insurrection and corruption in this

province, and it is expected that the Shiraz court will act more decisively in these matters.

Scholars Subject to Draft Free To Come, Go

92AS05910 London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jan 92 p 11

[Text] Iranians subject to military service are free to travel to the country upon presenting academic and specialization documents. These Iranians, upon identifying themselves to the command headquarters of the armed forces, may go to Iran and return to the country where they work and study after a stay for some time without any problems.

General Hasan Gudarzi, the head of the Iranian military service office, explained in this regard: The political agencies of Iran abroad are responsible for examining the documents of qualified Iranians with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and arranging for their travel to Iran. Gen. Gudarzi added: The graduates of foreign universities who are subject to the draft may continue to travel to Iran with a three-year temporary exemption.

Prosecutor on Return of Iranians Living Abroad

92AS0638J London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Ebrahim Ra'isi, Tehran Islamic revolutionary prosecutor, announced this week: We are not putting up obstacles of any kind to the return of Iranians living abroad, although those who have committed crimes will have to have their cases investigated after they arrive in Iran. Concerning those subject to Article 49 and those who have obtained illicit revenues, the Tehran prosecutor said: In the event that they do not appear in court, we convict most of those who are accused, and the verdict issued will be carried out.

Ra'isi said that the penalties the Islamic Republic has in mind are the same for those groups opposed to the regime, weapons thieves, or those who endanger the security of the government. The Tehran Islamic revolutionary prosecutor discussed the case of Mohammad Hashem Samadi Ahari, chief of the office of the Supreme Judiciary Council, who was arrested for abuses in the SAIPA Company incident. He said: This individual was sentenced to one and one-half year's imprisonment, and in accordance with the law he appealed the sentence. His case has gone to the Supreme Court. Of course he is facing other charges, which are being reviewed at the Military Court.

Further Exemptions for Iranians Living Abroad

92AS0645D London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] Those eligible for the draft who left the country prior to 17/12/67 [8 March 1989] without a passport can, with the payment of 1 million tomans, make use of the three-year temporary exemption, provided their residence permit abroad is verified by the political agencies of the Islamic Republic in those countries.

But, since many of the individuals who are subject to the draft left the country without a passport and have no residence documents to be verified by the political agencies of the Islamic Republic abroad, their problem remains unresolved. Although, according to General Hasan Gudarzi, the head of the military service office, negotiations are under way with the head of consulate affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to "facilitate the examination of the situation of those abroad who are eligible for the draft," these negotiations have not yet yielded tangible results. Hence, no clear response has resulted from KEYHAN's contacts with the consulate offices of the Islamic Republic abroad to obtain more information about this matter. They have only said that the officials of the military service office and the consulate office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are currently negotiating about this matter.

But the travel to Iran of those eligible for the draft who reside abroad and have a valid academic degree is another matter. This group may, with an introduction by the command headquarters of the armed forces, visit Iran for one month.

Gen. Gudarzi said that the age of those subject to the draft is a full 18 years. At the present time, those born in 1352 [21 March 1973-20 March 1974] and 1351 [21 March 1972-20 March 1973] are subject to the draft. He added: Absentees born from 1338-1351 [21 March 1959-20 March 1973] will also be drafted. He said: The military service will last 24 months, and those absent, if they identify themselves, will receive three months of additional service, and if arrested, they will receive six months of additional service.

Conditions for Transfer of Medical Students

92AS0638L London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Health Care, Treatment, and Medical Education announced: Iranian students living abroad studying in the medical fields and departments affiliated with it, if they have studied three years abroad and have passed the basic science examinations, may transfer to domestic universities to continue their studies. An official from the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment, and Medical Education, who discussed this last week in Shiraz, said: Currently 400 physicians per year are being sent abroad to pursue specialist studies.

Interior Ministry Declares Mayor's Opinion Invalid

92AS0645E London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Interior declared the actions of Tehran City Hall, with regard to attracting more investments from the people in the affairs of the City Hall through the payment of 24-percent interest an autonomous, an invalid act.

Tehran City Hall announced recently that it will give 24-percent interest on the people's investments placed at

the disposal of City Hall. The public relations office of the Ministry of Interior has warned Tehran citizens in a communique that the plan by the City Hall to use the investments of the citizens of the capital in developmental affairs at a rate of 24-percent interest lacks the necessary permits and is not recognized officially by the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Republic. In announcements published in this regard in Iranian newspapers, Tehran City Hall has called the people to "participate and enjoy sufficient interest." But Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri, the minister of interior, strongly opposed the plan of Karbaschian, the famous mayor of Tehran, who is now in London. In the meantime, Tehran KEYHAN has lent its voice to the minister of interior and has written in criticism of the mayor of Tehran: If the Five-Year Plan or the economic policies based on it have determined the national banking system at an interest rate of 13 percent to attract the investments of the people, how can a large government organization such as Tehran City Hall allow itself to take such a step outside the Five-Year Plan and without attention to the current economic policies and obtaining permits from proper authorities. KEYHAN added: The lack of taking a position in time by the Supreme Economic Council has created the false supposition that this idea of the Tehran mayor may have been implemented by a previous arrangement with the authorities.

New Regulations To Prevent Misuse of Government Planes

92AS0631F London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] New regulations have been prepared for the use of airplanes, helicopters, and government luxury cars by the officials of the Islamic Republic and the clergy. Hasan Habibi, the deputy of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, announced in Tehran: Due to the misuse of government transportation vehicles, last week a meeting was held at the office of the president to draft new regulations for the use of helicopters, airplanes, and government cars by government officials and other persons.

Justice Ministry Computer Center Inaugurated

92AS0650C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] On the inauguration of the Ministry of Justice Computer Center, Chief of the Judiciary Ayatollah Yazdi expressed the hope that by opening this center the affairs of the people will be carried out more quickly.

The chief of the judiciary went on to describe the equipping of the Ministry of Justice with computers as an important step and noted: This measure will certainly be effective in handling the affairs of the people and those appealing to the Ministry of Justice and the task will be performed more quickly.

ABRAR's correspondent reports that in addition to Ayatollah Yazdi, chief of the judiciary, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Abol-Fazl Musavi-Tabrizi,

national public prosecutor and the chief of the Administrative Justice Court, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Shushtari, minister of justice, and the chief of the National Investigation Organization attended the opening ceremonies the Ministry of Justice Computer Center,

According to the same report, the Minister of Justice Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Shushtari discussed at these ceremonies the importance of using computers in justice and explained the characteristics of the Ministry of Justice Computer Center as follows:

This system has a central guidance unit in an IBM 4381 electronic brain with 16 megabytes, or 16 million units memory and a color console. He added: The Ministry of Justice Computer Center has a total of 134 different machines.

After the remarks by the minister of justice, the chief of the judiciary inspected the various departments in the Ministry of Justice Computer Center and at every department Engineer Shamsabadi, chief of the Ministry of Justice Computer Center, provided the necessary explanations and information.

Vahaji Details Commerce Ministry Activities*92AS0650B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 13*

[Text] In the first nine months of the current year [20 March - 21 December 1991] the nation's exports of commercial goods came to \$1.85 billion, an increase of 111 percent over last year.

Minister of Commerce 'Abdol-Hoseyn Vahaji, who went to Sistan va Baluchestan, announced the above at a meeting of the Province Administrative Council. He said: Last year \$1.3 billion in nonpetroleum goods was exported, and this year, at the current rate, this figure will more than double.

He added: By strengthening and activating exports and revitalizing the exports fortunately today all exports of commercial goods have increased. As an example, the minister of commerce mentioned one of the nation's clothing manufacturing units, which exported \$5 million this year to Germany, of course. A foundry was also able to obtain the necessary foreign exchange on international markets by producing and exporting balance scales.

Mr. Vahaji continued by discussing the plans and policies of the Ministry of Commerce during the government's Five-Year plan. He said: To increase production in the years 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990] and 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991] more than \$17 billion in foreign exchange has been allocated to the three industrial sectors, including industries, heavy industries, and mines.

He added: The owners of industries who have taken important steps to procure raw materials and to increase production of quality products and who have made their industries conform to modern technology have succeeded and their products have found great demand domestically and abroad.

The minister of commerce noted: The government's goal is to move towards a single price for goods, and in this regard one must now move from three prices to two prices to one price.

He ended his talk by noting the fact that in the not-too-distant future the cooperatives will be active and the producing units will make some of their products available to the cooperatives. He said: The procurement of basic goods and goods needed by everyone in the country, as well as rationed goods, will be done next in accordance with the Majles budget.

Call For Creation of Price Control Committee*92AS0650A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Jan 92 p 9*

[Text] In the last few days unusually large price increases were registered for sausage and kilbasa, white and red meat, and eggs in the municipalities of Karaj, Sarejbalagh and Shahryar.

IRNA reports that uncontrolled price increases, especially for high-consumption food items, are such that in

the aforementioned municipalities no organization is responsible for supervising and controlling rates and halting high prices, and in reality the guilds and producers set the prices at a fair level.

In the last two weeks the price of a kilogram of mutton gradually went from 2,900 rials to 3,300 rials, a kilogram of chicken went from 1,450 to 1,650 rials, and the price of a carton of eggs increased from 1,500 rials to 2,000 rials.

Likewise, since early last week the retail price of a kilogram of plain sausage and kilbasa increased from 1,600 rials to 2,100 rials. Several owners of the questionable guild units said that the high cost of kilbasa and plain sausage is the result of an increase in the official rate made by the kilbasa plants. He said: According to recent invoices, the official rate for a kilogram of kilbasa or plain sausage increased 500 rials.

Several citizens of Karaj, in complaining about uncontrolled price increases for various goods, asked the appropriate officials to form a committee or a staff to supervise and control prices and to deal decisively with the problem of selling at high prices in this municipality, so that guild violators will no longer put the people under economic pressure.

The prices for petrochemical products have increased dramatically in the last few days in the cities of Behshehr, Neka, Sari, Qa'emshahr, Babol, and Amol.

Currently in these areas the price for mutton went from 2,500 rials to 3,600 rials per kilogram, beef and veal went from 2,300 to 3,200 rials, chicken from 1,350 rials to more than 1,700 rials, and eggs from 1,400 rials to 2,100 rials per carton.

According to several tradesmen from the municipality of Sari, because of the shortage of livestock and the lack of slaughters, since Sunday, of the 130 butchers in this city, only 30 butcher shops have offered meat to buyers, most of it beef.

Government Subsidies To Be Gradually Eliminated*92AS0631B London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 4*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran will try to gradually eliminate the subsidies on consumer goods and foodstuff in the next two years. The implementation of this policy will result in higher prices on the open market for consumers procuring a major portion of their foodstuff and needed goods. The issue of eliminating the subsidies on goods has been examined for some time in the Economic Council of the regime, and according to available information, the government will gradually and in stages engage in eliminating subsidies on goods. Danesh Ashtiani, the deputy minister of commerce of the Islamic Republic, said to reporters some time ago that according to a plan being discussed in the Economic Council, subsidies on goods will only apply to the

low-income strata. Simultaneous with the announcement of this report by an official of the regime, Kashani, the deputy director of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, who has traveled to Germany for negotiations to attract foreign capital and loans, took part in a press conference and told the reporter of (HENDELZ BLAT) newspaper, published in that country, that the regime will in the future, before the foreign currency rate is determined, eliminate all subsidies on goods. Economic experts believe that the gradual elimination of subsidies on goods and the elimination of coupons for many needed goods used by the people follow policies dictated to the Islamic regime by the World Bank and the IMF, and that until the economic officials of the Islamic Republic succeed in the complete execution of these policies and implementation of these recommendations, the above-mentioned bank will refuse to grant loans to Iran. Reports published in the German press indicate that although the minister of economic affairs and finance and the director general of the Central Bank of the Islamic regime have denied on various occasions the issue of accepting loans from the World Bank and the IMF and insist on hiding the content of their negotiations with that bank, there is evidence that, in gaining the consent of the Western industrial countries, particularly the United States, and after being assured that the Islamic regime in Tehran has implemented precisely the economic policies recommended by the banking experts, World Bank experts will take steps to grant Iran long-term loans. Not only did the deputy director of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic not deny in his press conference with German newspapers the possibility of obtaining a loan from the World Bank, but he emphasized that this bank has so far granted \$250 million to Iran in loans. He said: "The World Bank and the IMF, after visiting Iran and studying the Iranian economy, have agreed to provide some of the funds needed by the Islamic Republic."

An Iranian banker in Europe to study banking told our KEYHAN reporter that in eliminating the official rate of foreign currency, based on seven toman to the dollar, the price of all goods, including domestic products and those imported from other countries, will increase dramatically, and this will impose extreme pressure on the low-income class, government employees, and fixed-wage earners. The above-mentioned banker added: "At the present, many consumer and essential goods and foodstuffs needed by the people are placed at their disposal with assistance provided by the government from public revenues in the form of subsidies, at a price far below cost. Moreover, the regime still allows the importers of essential goods and the domestic producers of some goods as well as the government, ministries, and organizations in charge of foreign consumer supplies to benefit from foreign currency at the government rate (seven toman to the dollar). Hence, the elimination of subsidies on goods and removing government foreign currency or foreign currency at the official rate will cause the unprecedented hike in the price of many goods, and

as a result of this increase, the low-income strata and the poor will be under more pressure than ever before."

Continued Increase in Prices

Reports from Tehran and other cities indicate that in the past two months (Azar and Dey [22 November-20 January]), with the rumor of the likely increase in the salaries of the employees next year, the rumor of the elimination of subsidies, and finally the official decrease in the rial rate compared to foreign currencies, inflation and the prices of goods have continued to rise. In some cases, the price of goods and services has increased by 100 to 200 percent in less than two months. An exclusive report from Tehran indicates that in the past two months, the price of 1 kg of lamb with bones and fat has increased from 250 toman to 450 toman, 1 carton of eggs from 135 toman to 175 toman, 1 kg of foreign rice from 50 to 80 toman, 1 kg of ordinary Iranian rice from 70 to 120 toman, a 4.5-kg can of shortening from 500 to 900 toman, and 1 kg of butter from 400 to 700 toman. Along with such items and foodstuff, the prices of housing services, transportation, health and pharmaceutical services, fuel, kerosene, school tuition and educational services, construction materials and other similar goods have also increased in the past two months by 50 to 150 percent. Economic experts agree that in the future the inflation rate will increase at an unprecedented rate, and the price of all goods and services will increase rapidly.

The economic officials of the Islamic regime of Tehran have themselves admitted this increase in the rate of inflation, and many of the Majles representatives in discussions on the next year's budget bill have called the increase in the inflation rate at several times the announced level inevitable. Economic experts believe that despite the claim of the Central Bank of the regime that the inflation rate is at the present 18 percent and will probably increase to 26 to 30 percent next year, considering the future plans of the regime, including the gradual elimination of subsidies and the elimination of the official rate for foreign currency, the decrease in the government foreign currency revenues from the sale of oil, and decreases in the value of the dollar vis-a-vis other foreign currencies in the world, the inflation rate in Iran, which is about 50 to 60 percent, can be expected to reach over 150 to 180 percent next year.

Foreign Loan Availability \$27.4 Billion

92AS0638P London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] To reach the authorized limit on foreign borrowing during the Five-Year Development Plan, the Islamic Republic is working hard to gain access to the lending resources of foreign international banks, especially the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and in 1992 it obtained up to \$15 billion in loans. Reports published by international financial sources, including the International Foreign Accounts Resolution Bank (BAL of Switzerland), the World Bank, and the

International Monetary Fund, state that the Islamic regime in Tehran now has about \$11 to \$13 billion in debts to foreign sources. In addition to this sum, the Islamic regime has obtained huge amounts of credits from purchasing countries in exchange for advance sales of significant amounts of crude oil. The amount of advance sales of oil and petroleum byproducts in the year 1991 and the current year is estimated at about \$7 billion. Morteza Alviri, chief of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission, recently announced officially that based on authorizations in the Five-Year Plan and with Majles approval, the regime can borrow \$27.4 billion from foreign sources. He was asked about foreign borrowing by a participant at a seminar on the gains of the Islamic revolution. He said: "The government can borrow \$27.4 billion from foreign sources in the form of loans, and it may use that money on projects, whose implementation will lead to increased exports and savings on foreign exchange".

Official on Plan To Establish Single Foreign Exchange Rate

92AS0592F Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
5 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] Tehran—KEYHAN-E HAVA'I NEWS SERVICE—7 Bahman—27 January—Movement towards a single foreign exchange rate is in the government's plans, and in this regard the Economic Council and the Council of Ministers are holding expert economic talks.

Dr. Hasan Habibi, first deputy to the president of the republic and government spokesman, announced the above in his weekly press conference. He said: Experts believe that multiple foreign exchange rates do not benefit the nation's economic system, but a decision has not yet been made in this regard.

The government spokesman discussed Iran's commercial and trade relations with various countries, including its northern neighbors. He said: These countries now need our help and we must not hesitate to extend aid to them. At the same time, none of this aid is free, and investments and costs incurred must be returned.

Concerning America's threats against Libya, Dr. Habibi noted again that this matter must be investigated by a neutral international committee.

The first deputy to the president of the republic discussed the problem of fuel for the public in view of the severe cold. He said: We agree that the people have many problems in this area. Since it has been unable to solve the problems of the people, the Ministry of Petroleum must apologize to them. However, just as we have said before, the problem has to do with transporting fuel to various parts of the country.

He was asked why the kerosene sales outlets sell it at free-market prices despite having kerosene, and why they do not deliver kerosene for ration coupons. He answered: We hope this problem will be solved.

KEYHAN's correspondent reports that Dr. Habibi discussed the recent measure enacted by the Consumption Model Council concerning the use by officials of automobiles, aircraft, and helicopters. He said: According to law, the Consumption Model Council is required to prepare guidelines to prevent unnecessary expenditures and to deal with ostentatious practices.

In this regard he explained: For officials who have the right to use government automobiles, the times when they can use the automobiles will be stipulated. At the same time it has been advised that the automobiles to be used by officials should be ordinary. Likewise, with regard to the use of the government's aircraft and helicopters, it must be stipulated how they may be used in case of necessity.

Based on this report, Dr. Habibi's weekly press conferences will not be held until the end of Daheh-ye Fajr.

Paper on Advance Sale of Crude Oil

92AS0631K London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] The Majles granted permission to the Ministry of Petroleum to presell certain amounts of Iranian crude oil to other countries next year. According to MEED, the weekly published in London, the amount of oil permitted for presale next year has been set at \$1.5 billion worth. Apparently, France, Germany, Japan, and several international companies will prepurchase the crude oil offered by the Islamic Republic. About four years ago, the Islamic Republic offered significant amounts of crude oil to Japan and began the presale of the Iranian wealth to the foreigners. Although the general amount of the presold Iranian crude oil and the conditions and procedures for pricing have not yet been revealed by the regime, informed circles have estimated the total value of the crude oil presold by the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic to Japan and an international consortium comprised of companies of France, Germany, and several other countries at about \$5 to \$7 billion. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, the minister of petroleum of the Islamic Republic, announced some time ago that the Islamic regime will continue the presale of Iranian crude oil and there are no restrictions on such transactions. The above-mentioned official also announced that in order to procure foreign currency needed to expand the petrochemical industries, a major part of the products of those industries have been presold abroad. He mentioned the value of the presold petrochemicals to foreign companies at more than \$2 billion and pointed out that, in order to attract the capital needed for the expansion of the industry, the national petrochemical industries company is asking for help from the private sector as well as foreign companies. MEED, published in London, wrote that the officials of the Iranian petrochemical industries have received \$300 million in financial pledges from the private sector and domestic and foreign companies for the purpose of attracting private capital to operate this industry in Kerman.

The above-mentioned publication added that the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic has, so far, procured \$870 million from the private sector and several foreign companies to carry out nine petrochemical projects in Iran. Quoting the governor general of Kerman, MEED writes that the office of the governor general is at the present time studying 100 applications for investment in the Kerman petrochemical industries by the private sector.

Value of Nonoil Exports Increases 100 Percent

92AS06380 London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] As of the end of the month of Day 1370 [20 January 1992] the Islamic Republic has about 142 billion rials in nonpetroleum exports. In the middle of last week Irananin customs announced that during the first ten months of the current year [21 March 1991-20 January 1992] the nation's nonpetroleum exports increased 11.6 percent by weight compared to the same period last year, and more than 100 percent in terms of value.

The Public Relations Office of Islamic Republic Customs, setting the value of a dollar at eight toman, said that the nation's foreign exchange earnings through the sale of nonpetroleum products during the period under consideration were \$2.039 billion, and added that the list of nonpetroleum products exported from the country in the period under discussion still shows handwoven carpets in first position. Islamic Republic Customs said that the weight of all the carpets exported in the first ten months of the current year is 18,000 tons, with a value of 62 billion rials.

The customs report says that pistachios and pistachio meats exported in the first ten months of the current year increased significantly compared to the same period last year, accounting for 12.5 percent of the value of all the nation's nonpetroleum exports. In this report hides, sausage skins, copper, currants, raisins, dried fruits, vegetables, caviar, lead ore, saffron, cummin, machine-made carpets and certain medicinal herbs and mineral ores are mentioned as the nation's other nonpetroleum exports.

Sa'idi-Kya Details Road, Airport Expansion

92AS0650E Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Hamadan—ABRAR correspondent—Since the beginning of the revolution, the construction of the nation's connective highways and roads has doubled.

This announcement was made by Engineer Sa'idi-Kya, minister of roads and transportation, who had gone to Hamadan for the purpose of inspecting the road-building activities of the Hamadan Province Office of Roads and Transportation and to visit with the families of martyrs in this office, and take part in the ceremonies observing the joyous Daheh-ye Fajr. He added: In the year 1357 [21 March 1978 - 20 March 1979], there were only 4 km

of road in the country for every 100 sq km of area, and this figure has now increased to 7 km, and the percentage we have in mind based on the planning that has been done is 25 km of road for every 100 sq km of land. He added: After the revolution 2,000 km of rural roads were built by the reconstruction crusade, and this is four times as many roads as existed before the revolution. He noted the superiority and economy of transporting goods and passengers by rail. He said: There are now 2,600 km of rail in the country, and in addition to that another 1,700 km are being built and constructed. Likewise, another 5,000 km are under consideration, and construction of some will begin during the next year. The minister of roads and transportation added: During the current year [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992] 11,000 km of main and secondary roads and 5,000 km of rural roads were built, and several large projects also went into operation. He discussed the need to develop and equip existing airports, build new airports, and expand airline activities, as being among the nation's vital needs, and concluded by saying: In the year 1357 there were 11,000 km of roads in Hamadan, and there are now 21,000 km, which shows the sincere efforts made by those in public office and the appropriate insiders. Mr. Sa'idi-Kya closed by presenting gifts to the survivors among the respected families of martyrs.

Tehran-Saveh Freeway Construction Begins

92AS0483D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 Dec 91 p 2

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] The construction operations for the 105-km Tehran-Saveh freeway began yesterday morning in the presence of a group of the people of Saveh; Sa'id-kia, the minister of roads and transports; the deputy commander of the Guards Corps; and the representative of the people of Saveh in the Majles.

This freeway will be built in three construction sections within four years by the Khatam ol-Anbia' reconstruction headquarters.

The cost of this project, which is 60 billion rials, will be provided through the joint investments of the Melat and Tejarat Banks and the use of the partnership law.

This freeway has six lanes, a total usable width of 34.9 meters, and is designed for a car speed of 120 km per hour.

The freeway will begin from the Tehran loop and, after a 2.5-km distance on the Saveh-'Alishah Avaz, cross the existing Saveh Road and Shur River and continue towards the industrial city of Kaneh-Safchegan.

Train Tickets to Turkey May Be Purchased in Rials*92AS0645I London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 4*

[Interview with the trade deputy of the railroads of the Islamic Republic by reporters; place and date and not given]

[Text] From now on, passengers departing for Turkey can purchase round-trip tickets to Ankara and Istanbul from the ticket sales offices of the Islamic Republic railroads in Tehran and other cities with rials. The trade deputy of the railroads of the Islamic Republic, who participated in a press conference to present a report on the first nine months of operations of his organization this year, made the announcement concerning the state of the sale of train tickets to Ankara and Istanbul and told reporters that families can also purchase tickets from the ticket offices of the railroads to send to their children and relatives. The trade and economic affairs deputy of the railroads said to reporters concerning the activities of the railroads of the Islamic Republic abroad: "At the present time, the passenger and cargo trains travel between several points, and include the Tehran-Moscow train, the Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul train, and the Kutahya-Zahedan train."

The above-mentioned official announced in his press conference that in the first nine months of this year, about 8.5 million passengers traveled by the national railroad system and said: We hope with the purchase of 3,930 railroad cars from the Pars railroad car factory and 120 locomotives from Canada, we will be able to increase the passenger transport and cargo capacity of the railroads and increase the long-distance network.

Postal Rates to Foreign Countries Triple*92AS0481D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 31 Dec 91 p 9*

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] **Based on the ratifications of the international postal union, the postal rates to foreign countries changed at a triple-rate increase. These changes will be implemented from 1 Dey [22 December].**

Seyyed Mostafa Seyyed Hashemi, a member of the board of directors and the technical deputy of the postal company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, explained the reason for this increase and said: Like 176 other countries that are members of the international postal union, our country is also obliged to observe its regulations and ratifications.

He said: The new rate is based on the decision of the 1984 Hamburg congress of the international postal union, which has been ratified by the Majles. The new ratification of this congress in 1989 in Washington, D.C., has set a higher rate.

The technical deputy of the postal company of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: In calculating the postal

rate for items in the country, there are four basic factors on which all countries carry out their postal calculations.

These factors are: The entry fee of the destination country, based on 70 rials to the dollar; the exit fees from the departure country, based on the cost of air transport, at the rate of 600 rials to the dollar; and the cost of distribution in the destination country, based on the rate of 600 rials to the dollar.

Mr. Seyyed Hashemi said: The transport of postal items to 37 countries with whom we have separate agreements takes three to five days, and if they do not arrive in five days, the postal company pays up to twice the fees it has received in compensation to the customers.

He announced the new postal rates for a 1-kg package to several countries in comparison to the previous rates as follows:

- Dubai, from 960 rials to 2,400 rials;
- U.S.A., from 1,630 rials to 6,660 rials;
- Japan, from 1,900 rials to 5,550 rials;
- Germany, from 1,250 rials to 3,550 rials;
- Sweden, from 1,830 rials to 4,440 rials.

He announced the postal rates by ground to Japan as increasing from 1,190 rials to 1,950 rials; to Germany, from 1,200 rials to 2,000 rials; and to Sweden, from 1,830 rials to 2,300 rials. Considering the distances of the destination countries, it will take three to 45 days to be delivered.

'Land Banks' To Increase Agricultural Development*92AS0483C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Dec 91 p 9*

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] **In order to make use of water and land and have more people participate in agriculture, agricultural land expansion, and development (land banks) will be established throughout the country.**

These companies will operate under the Agricultural Bank of the Islamic Republic, and it is projected that they will play a significant role in the increase in agricultural production, the decrease in expenditures for producers, and increased income. According to an expert of the Agricultural Bank in the province of eastern Azerbaijan, with the creation of these companies, the funds of the banking system and the people's investments will be promoted towards production, and non-governmental investments in agricultural development will be especially important in guaranteeing a return and security. Through the establishment of these companies, the executive instructions that have been announced to the provinces, uncontested lands that are usable for agricultural development in the country will be purchased or leased and placed at the disposal of these companies. After the completion of fundamental operations, such as creating irrigation networks, drainage, the

leveling of lands, revitalization, new construction and providing water, they will be transferred to actual and legal persons.

This report indicates: Also, the announcement was made in the meeting of the Economic Council in the province of eastern Azerbaijan that with the implementation of the government policies regarding the guaranteed purchase of agricultural products from the beginning of the purchasing season, so far, 51,000 tons of onions and 21,851 tons of potatoes have been purchased from farmers, of which 31 tons of onions and 30 tons of potatoes were exported to the independent Soviet Republic of (Nakhichevan).

Official Calls For Changes in Packaging Industry
92AS0481B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 25 Dec 91 p 3

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] **Our packaging is not suitable for export.**

In order to increase the export of foodstuff and various other products, the packaging system must be changed.

This statement was made by Engineer Changiz Hazin, the director general of exports, at the Ministry of Industries in a one-day seminar on the problems of the food packaging industry. He said: Undoubtedly, one of the existing problems in the export of various goods, particularly foodstuff, is our weakness in the packaging of such goods.

He said: The figures regarding food exports in the first eight months of this year indicate a lack of suitable packaging. He added: During this period, 6,000 tons of food have been exported to various countries.

He announced the necessary figure for investment in the packaging industries to be about \$500 million and in conclusion pointed out: In the packaging industry of the country, in all dimensions, including glass, boxes, cardboard, metal, and foam, we must invest and plan.

Tehran City Hall Asking Public for Loan
92AS0645H London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] The Tehran City Hall, under the pretext of a vital need for money and capital to carry out fundamental plans in the capital, has asked the people to loan the money to this organization and receive 24-percent interest annually. Experts in economic affairs believe that the Tehran City Hall, by requesting money from the people and pledging to pay this money back with 24-percent interest annually, has in practice joined the banks and financial and interest-free loan establishments and, entering into competition with those establishments that pay 10- to 15-percent interest on people's deposits, has in practice threatened the national banking system. The public relations office of Tehran City Hall in a communique early last week said that those who have

small or stagnant capital and who wish to make safe investments and get a proper return may loan their money to this organization.

The public relations office of the above-mentioned organization wrote in its communique: "Capital placed at the disposal of the City Hall by the people for one year will be used for the projects under way, including the building of 4,500-unit administrative and commercial complexes in northern Tehran, the building of commercial complexes on Hafez-Vali-ye 'Asr Street and Keshavarz Boulevard, and recreational complexes and housing complexes in western Tehran. Those interested in investing will receive 6-percent interest on their investment at the end of every three months (24 percent annually).

The Tehran City Hall asked people to deposit their money in the banking account of the organization by 11 Bahman [31 January] of this year. The public relations office of the City Hall also announced that the minimum amount for participation is 50,000 tomans and the maximum amount 50 million tomans. The date for the start of the one-year participation is from 12 Bahman [1 February] this year until 11 Bahman [31 January] next year.

Polyethylene Pipes Used in Gas Distribution Network

92AS0481C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 30 Dec 91 p 9

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] **Use of the first natural gas distribution network with the use of polyethelene pipes began in the Qasr-e Firuz township in Tehran.**

In the opening ceremonies of this system in which Salehi-Foruz, the deputy minister of petroleum for natural gas and the director general of the Iranian national gas company, and a large group of the commanders of the military Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the families of the personnel of the Air Force were present, the announcement was made: This method has been used for the first time in the country by the experts of the Iranian national natural gas company; hence, steel pipes have been replaced by polyethylene pipes.

Also, in areas where these pipes are used for urban natural gas lines, the problems in the rest will be eliminated.

According to this report, the basic studies on the use of "polyethylene" pipes in place of steel pipes began in 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983], and according to the studies, these pipes are more economical than steel pipes due to their easy installation, the cost being about 30 percent lower than steel pipes. On the other hand, the necessary energy for the production of these kinds of pipes is 20 percent that used for steel pipe production.

Because these pipes are lightweight; easy to transport; flexible; easily and rapidly connected; resistant to earthquakes, dampness, and chemicals; and easy to train the manpower needed to use them; they are preferable to steel pipes.

Foundation Puts Confiscated Houses on Sale

92AS0638N London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] The Islamic regime's Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans, in implementing its policy of selling assets belonging to the people, is auctioning off a number of confiscated fancy villas in northern Tehran and Shamiran. The highest base price among the properties to be auctioned by the Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans is set for a 3,580-square-meter luxury villa located in Za'faraneh on Qafelankuh Street. The proposed price of this villa is 2.17 billion rials, and it is expected that this property will be sold for several times this amount. Other fancy villas and houses being sold by the foundation are located on Nayavaran, Pasdaran, Golestan, Darband, Makhsus, Za'faraniyeh, Nistan, 15 Khordad, Mojame', ASP, Vali'asr, Keshavarz Boulevard, and several other streets. In the last few years the Islamic regime's Foundation for the Oppressed and War Veterans has sold a significant number of houses, orchards, villas, residential homes, lands and other non-ovable assets belonging to the public, thereby adding millions of rials to its revenues.

Minister on Construction of 20 Massive Dams

92AS0592C Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 12 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] 15 Bahman—4 February—To control and make better use of the nation's flowing waters, operations to build 20 great dams are under way in the country, and these will go into operation by the end of the year 1371 [20 March 1993].

Minister of Energy Bizhan Namdar-Zengeneh, who went to the province of Bakhteran to open this province's water delivery project, gave an interview to IRNA in which he discussed this. He said: In the current year more than 36 billion rials of the Ministry of Energy's credits were spent in the water sector.

He said that this ministry's proposed budget for the year 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1993] is 430 billion rials. He said: We hope that through the allocation of this money, water, and electric projects will be completed throughout the country.

After inaugurating water wells and the badly needed Bakhteran water delivery project in the Dah Pahn area, the minister of energy took part in a meeting that was called to discuss and study the potable water problems for the people of Bakhteran and some other parts of this province.

At this meeting the problems arising from the pollution of Bakhteran's drinking water were presented and decisions were made to improve the delivery networks for this city and other cities in the province.

The problem of the pollution of drinking water in the city of Bakhteran reached its peak last year and the plan not to use the water from the Qerehsu River because of excessive pollution was implemented.

Official Details Activities of Fisheries

92AS0650F Tehran ABRAR in Persian 10 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] News Service—To procure some of the nation's protein needs, this year more than 2,800 tons of fish (from the free family) were taken from international waters by the Iran Fisheries Company, which will be shipped to Iran soon and distributed to the public.

The above was announced yesterday at a press conference by Engineer Ahmadaf, executive director of the Commercial Fisheries Company. The executive director said: With the foreign exchange obtained from the export of caviar and shrimp, the Commercial Fisheries Company purchased motors, nets, rope and other fishing equipment, and made them available to the cooperative fishing unions.

He added: Every year the Commercial Fisheries Company sets a guaranteed price for the catch, and if the fishermen's catch is not bought by the private sector, the Commercial Fisheries Company buys it at the guaranteed price.

Engineer Akbaraf discussed the controlling of fishing activities by the fishermen. He said: By using industrial fishing ships belonging to the Commercial Fisheries Company and ships authorized by this company, the fishermen's fishing activities are also supervised.

According to the acting director of the Commercial Fisheries Company and based on the policies of the government, the Bandar 'Abbas cannery is to be turned over to the private sector. He said this plant's annual production is 15 to 20 million cans per year.

With regard to Iran's caviar exports, he said: In view of conditions in Russia, this nation's caviar is now being marketed below standards, and its price must be lowered on international markets. Yet the quality of Iran's caviar is quite good, and it is very well received in international markets.

Engineer Akbaraf said: Currently shrimp is being bought in two ways and at a good price from fishermen.

He added: Because of its sensitivity, the shrimp market must be stabilized. For this reason, lobster and caviar-bearing fish are exported as a monopoly activity.

He emphasized: Fish which are consumed domestically are not exported. He added:

For some time the Commercial Fisheries Company has been reducing its catch of caviar-bearing fish to conserve its stocks of these fish, and this will continue. He added that in the past domestic caviar was distributed in the country at low prices, and that its exports in 1364 [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986] had only come up to 80 tons.

Most of this kind of caviar, he continued, was being purchased domestically and shipped abroad, but with the controls being regulated by the Commercial Fisheries Company, Iran's exports of this product are two and a half times what they were last year. He said: The Commercial Fisheries Company exports 42 tons of caviar per year to the former Soviet Union, but under existing conditions, some of this is being sold on the domestic market, and the Commercial Fisheries Company is also seeking markets abroad for the rest.

According to Engineer Akbaraf, it is expected that 10 tons of caviar will go to the nation's domestic market.

In conclusion, he said that the Commercial Fisheries Company total exports during the first ten months of this year [21 March - 21 December 1990] are valued at \$49.5 million, of which \$41.5 million was caviar exports and \$5 million was for shrimp exports.

Foreign Exchange Earnings From Caviar \$41.5 Million

92AS0638M London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] In the first ten months of the current year (1370) [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992] The Iran Fisheries Company has earned more than \$41.5 million in foreign exchange through the export of caviar. Most of the caviar produced in Iran is purchased from an international company based in Switzerland, and is delivered to consumers using an efficient distribution system. In the last few months the Iran Fisheries Company, taking advantage of the political events in the former Soviet Union and the malfunctions prevailing over the export of Caspian Sea caviar from this country, has increased its exports of this consumer item. Experts predict that during the year 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1993] the Iran Fisheries Company will increase its foreign exchange earnings from the sale of caviar. While taking part recently in a press conference, the executive director of the Iran Commercial Fisheries Company told news correspondents that in addition to its significant foreign exchange earnings through the sale of caviar to purchasing nations, this company has also earned about \$8 million through the export of quantities of shrimp and other types of aquatic animals in the first ten months of the current year. This official told news correspondents that the Iran Fisheries Company intends to turn over some of its technical installations to the private sector. He added: If approved by the Economic Council, the Iran Fisheries Company will sell the Bandar 'Abbas cannery to the private sector.

Marked Increase in Industrial Fishing Reported

92AS0483B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 24 Dec 91 p 5

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] **The level of industrial fishing by the fishermen of the Province of Sistan and Baluchestan in the nine months of this year topped 9,400 tons.**

According to the public relations office of the Iranian fishery company, in the nine months of this year, the hardworking fishermen of the province of Sistan and Baluchestan, using new and advanced scientific technology and methods, and also due to the increase in the number of fishing vessels, succeeded in catching more than 9,442 tons of industrial fish, including (huver) and (zardeh). This amount compared to the total industrial fishing catch last year, which was 4,300, has increased significantly.

According to this report, 4,000 tons of fish were caught by the fishery and the rest by the private sector, and are sold through the fishing cooperatives.

The public relations office of the fishery also mentioned the building of fishing docks; the distribution of fishing equipment among the fishermen; holding training, theoretical and practical courses for fishermen; the free purchase and sale of industrial fish; and the migration of fish to the waters of the region as among other reasons for the increase in fishing in the Province of Sistan and Baluchestan.

Of note is the fact that industrial fish are used for canning.

Building Construction Materials Rise Sharply

92AS0591N London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jan 92 p 4

[Text] The price of construction material, which comprises a major portion of building costs, increased nearly 100 percent last year. According to a report published in HOUSING ECONOMY, a bulletin published by the deputy office of housing of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, while the index of the price of construction materials in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] was about 300, this index has increased to 541 in a period of less than a year. Parallel to the significant increase in the price of construction materials, on the whole, the price of nonmetal construction materials has increased seven-fold, from 102 in 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] to 671 last year.

The above-mentioned publication states that more than 27 percent of the total family budget in the years 1357-1368 [21 March 1978-20 March 1990] was spent on housing. HOUSING ECONOMY mentions the fluctuation in the price of housing in Iran since the revolution: "The index of the price of land in comparison to other housing production factors not only had a greater increase, but also was characterized by major fluctuations.

The above-mentioned publication also announced the index of the price of land in the past few years as increasing from 59 to 442, which indicates an approximately eight-fold increase in the price of land. The bulletin of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of the Islamic Republic considers the unprecedented increase in the price of land and housing the result of land speculation by dealers and emphasizes that the share of housing costs in the family income in Iran compared to other countries in the world is at a very high level.

Price of Wholesale Goods Up Nearly 30 Percent

92AS0638K London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] In the first nine months of the current year [20 March-21 December 1992] the average indicator for wholesale goods in Iran increased 27.7 percent over the same period last year. According to the latest report from the Central Bank's Office of Economic Statistics, published last week: Increased prices for imported goods such as corn, fresh fruits and vegetables, livestock foods and imported poultry, soap, detergent powder and various washing substances have had the greatest effect in increasing the indicator for wholesale prices.

This year wholesale prices have also increased for red meat, barley, canned tomatoes, various types of hides, wool, yarn for hand-woven carpets, carpets, plaster, gas stoves, bulldozers, gridders, loaders and various kinds of rollers, sharpeners, industrial machinery spare parts, refrigerators, automobile parts, nylon sacks, and melamine containers.

Number of Foreign Visitors Adds Up to Thousands

92AS0645J London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] During the first eight months of this year (1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]), a total of 1,109,659 passengers entered Iran through air, land, and sea customs, of whom 718,522 were Iranians and the rest, that is, 391,137, were foreign passengers.

According to a report by the Customs of the Islamic Republic, in the first eight months of this year, 1,055,862 passengers left the country, of whom 756,828 were Iranians and 299,134 were foreigners [as published]. The

customs of the Islamic Republic pointed out in its announcement that most passengers entered or departed Iran through Mehrabad, Shiraz, and Bazargan customs, respectively. Continuing its statistical announcement, the Customs of the Islamic Republic mentioned that 4,416 cars entered the country in the first eight months of 1370 [1991-92] and 3,541 cars left the country during this period. He added that in addition to cars, during the period in question, 1,831 busses entered Iran and 2,002 busses left Iran.

Civil Servants' Numbers To Be Reduced to One-Third

92AS0645F London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] In the seminar on examining the administrative changes, which was held last week in Tehran, it was said that in the next 10 years, the number of government employees will be reduced to one-third its present number.

In this seminar, Mansur Razavi, vice president and head of the national administrative and employment affairs agency, asked the help of universities and research centers to come up with a solution for interpreting the administrative and executive system of the country. In this seminar, Dr. Mehdi Seyyed-Esfahani, the president of the Teacher Training University, said: At the present time, an administrative letter must go through 24 stages from the time it starts to the time it is filed, and obtaining an agreement in principle must go through 134 impediments. He said: According to available statistics, in the industrial units, 260 days of administrative work can be summed up in 26 hours. The president of the Teacher Training University added: Because of existing administrative corruption, every day in the newspapers we read reports on the arrest of bribery and embezzlement gangs. Razavi, the head of the administrative and employment affairs of the Islamic Republic also said: Under the present circumstances, 25 percent of government employees live in Tehran and the total number of employees in oppressed areas is only half of that figure. According to Razavi, 500,000 people have been added to the administrative system of the government, and of the total of people who work for the government, 9.3 percent have bachelor's degrees, 14.1 percent have associate degrees, 47 percent have high school diplomas, and 28 percent of the employees have high school educations below the diploma.

Military Training Helicopter Built Domestically

92AS0649B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] A Cobra assault training helicopter was built by the capable hands of the self-sufficient crusade support personnel of the Esfahan Air Force, and delivered to this force's training center.

The construction of this helicopter required 2,760 hours of labor and 3,750 kinds of repair operations.

All of this helicopter's parts were taken from helicopters, which had been damaged and taken out of service in previous years, gathered from across the country by the specialist personnel of this unit and assembled after suitable openings were cut in them at the site of the Esfahan Air Force Self-Sufficiency Crusade.

The commander of the repair, reconstruction, and assembly group for this helicopter was interviewed by an IRNA correspondent. He said: This is the first time in the world that this helicopter has been built and put on display by this method.

This attack training helicopter's important characteristics include the creation of many cut-outs in its various sections, which enable the students to observe visually all its systems and ways of operating through a clear plastic cover.

This helicopter's launching ceremony, held at the site of the Esfahan Air Force Self-Sufficiency Crusade, was attended by Infantry Brigadier General Najafi, Air Force Brigadier General Ansari of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and a group of personnel and Esfahan

Air Force commanders. The commander of the Esfahan Air Force Self-Sufficiency Crusade said that this unit's future plans include the manufacture of a Chinook military training helicopter and a Model 214 training helicopter.

He said: With the utilization of these unequalled training helicopters, the line helicopters, which are now being used for training, will be added to the flight lines of the nation's helicopter pilots.

Military Cooperation With England Reportedly To Resume

92AS0649A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 8 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] A Kuwaiti newspaper writes: England is building an industrial complex in Esfahan to produce parts for military equipment such as the Chieftain tank.

The newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAIT wrote on Thursday: The construction of an English military industrial complex in Esfahan was approved by both sides during a recent visit to Iran by an English delegation.

Representatives of five English arms manufacturing companies secretly visited Iran and obtained an agreement in principle from officials in the Ministry of Heavy Industries to build a military parts production complex in Iran.

SAWT AL-KUWAIT, quoting Iranian military sources, wrote: In secret meetings between military officials of the two countries in London, England agreed to reopen in London the Iran Weapons Purchasing Office. England announced the closing of this office in 1989.

Leprosy in West Azerbaijan Detailed*92AS0651D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 13*

[Text] To control leprosy in the southern parts of the province of West Azerbaijan, one of the health care needs of this area is the creation of a well-equipped research center to combat this disease.

In the area of Mehabad and the surrounding cities, so far 356 cases of leprosy have been identified. These patients live among 220 families with a total population of about 1,080 in the areas of Mehabad, Bukan, Piranshahr, and Sardasht.

According to an official of the antileprosy center in the municipality of Mehabad, 241 men and 115 women with leprosy in Mehabad and four cities in the vicinity are being treated and supported by the Mehabad Anti-Leprosy Center, and in the year 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992] three new cases have also been identified.

He said there are 90 patients receiving pensions, and that their monthly pensions are between 1,000 and 2,000 tomans.

Because of the lack of sufficient resources and personnel, the Mehabad Antileprosy Center currently provides diagnoses and patient services with great difficulty.

According to a center official, the work of diagnosis in the five cities and surrounding villages is done only with the help of two diagnosticians and with one automobile.

The center has only one foreign doctor to treat patients and most of them are sent to the Bababaghi center in Tabriz for treatment.

The lack of ambulances and the problem of sending patients in ordinary vehicles is another of this center's problems. Currently the low pensions for leprosy patients and the failure to pay pensions to three-quarters of them have caused them to be scattered throughout the cities of the region.

The Mehabad Antileprosy Center was founded about a year ago.

Rubbish, Stray Animals Causing Eye Diseases*92AS0651C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Jan 92 p 9*

[Text] About 35 percent of the students in Khorramshahr have eye diseases caused by the failure to collect building debris.

The above was announced yesterday by Qana'ati, governor of Khorramshahr, at a meeting of this municipality's administrative council. He added: The presence of building debris throughout the city, caused by the destruction of housing and business units during the war, in addition to endangering the health of the people, has provided a haven for stray animals.

The governor of Khorramshahr pointed also to the shortage of building materials in Khorramshahr. He said: Construction and building have stopped as the result of the shortage of construction materials, and it is necessary that officials put an end to the stagnation of building activities. Qana'ati also said the shortage of potable water is yet another problem facing the people of Khorramshahr.

Noting the health care and treatment situation in this city, he said: There are only nine doctors in Khorramshahr. Therefore, in addition to housing, every physician who goes to Khorramshahr will be given three types of basic goods.

Smugglers Destroying Nowshahr Jungles*92AS0651B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 27 Jan 92 p 9*

[Text] Although the National Forests and Pastures Organization has emphasized the protection and preservation of the juniper trees, this rare type of tree is not being effectively protected.

IRNA reports that this rare type of tree, which grows in dry and unfavorable environmental conditions in rock crevices and alkaline soils in the Alborz mountains between Gorgan in east Mazandaran and Rudbar in southeast Gilan at 511 to 1,000 meters above sea level, is being relentlessly cut as before and shipped elsewhere by wood smugglers, due to the lack of a strong executive law.

Likewise, large portions of the growing areas in this region have been completely destroyed and converted to orchards and private land by profiteers and rural people.

In the area between the regions of Kani and Delam alone to the south of Chalus, considered one of the most vulnerable juniper growing areas, of the 4,007 hectares of juniper lands, more than 1,280 hectares have been completely destroyed through gradual cutting and conversion to pastures and fruit orchards.

In recent years the juniper growing areas, considered among the nation's natural wonders, have been declared as national parks by those responsible for preserving forests, the rural people in neighboring areas have played a major role in reducing the numbers of this rare type of tree, seeking to use juniper wood for making inlaid crafts, spindles, spinning implements, and for other traditional uses.

Likewise juniper wood, because it is easy to work with, strong, impervious to moisture and gives off an odor that repels moths and other vermin that attack wool, is especially favored for building clothing chests and trunks.

Currently on the smuggled wood market a cubic meter of juniper wood is sold for more than 800,000 rials.

Experts of the National Forests and Pastures Organization say that the growth of juniper trees is connected to

the geological age, but if the destruction of this band of growing areas continues, in the next 50 years there will be no remaining trace of this unique community of juniper trees.

According to history, the Semiramis Bridge over the Euphrates River was built by Alexander the Great using durable Juniper wood, and in the distant past Iranian, Greek, Egyptian artists, and residents of the Island of Crete used juniper wood to build vessels, lutes and other musical implements and tools.

More than 1.053 billion rials credit has been allocated this year by the National Forests and Pastures Organization to carry out emergency projects to preserve the nation's forests. Yet according to those in charge of preserving the forests, more than \$100 million is spent annually to buy wood and other raw materials needed by the nation's wood industries from other countries.

Red Snow Reported in Hamadan

92AS0651A *Tehran ABRAR in Persian 8 Feb 92 p 3*

[Text] Red snow falling in the province of Hamadan has surprised the people. Following the snow and a severe storm, the people of Hamadan noticed the unnatural color of the snow, in which there were streaks of red.

An expert in the Hamadan meteorology office said the color of the snow was changed by the suspended dust in the air brought into the area by winds from Arab nations, especially Saudi Arabia, which settled to the ground along with the snow.

First Installment of Comprehensive Maps Published

92AS0483A *Tehran ABRAR in Persian 24 Dec 91 p 3*

[Interview with Engineer Rowghani-Zanjani, head of the Plan and Budget Organization, by reporters on 23 Dec 1991; place not given]

[Boldface words as published]

[Text] **The period for the implementation of the national comprehensive maps, which will be done in 100 "grids," will last 10 years.**

News service:

The first installment of comprehensive maps of the country was prepared and published by experts of the national mapping organization at a scale of 1/25,000.

Engineer Rowghani-Zanjani, the head of the Plan and Budget Organization, said in a press conference with reporters yesterday: The preparation of this map is considered one of the important projects of the country, which started in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990] and will be completed in 1378 [21 March 1999-20 March 2000].

He added: The implementation of the plan to prepare a 1/25,000-scale map will not only eliminate the information needs of the country but will also transfer to Iran and change the technical knowledge necessary for map making.

Pointing out that maps at scales of 1/50,000 and 1/250,000 used in the country were incorrect and imprecise due to data changes, Engineer Zanjani considered the preparation of a 1/25,000-scale map necessary and said: The implementation of this project was conferred on the supreme council of mapping of the country and was ratified in 1367 [1988-20 March 1989] by the government and the Majles.

The head of the Plan and Budget Organization said in regards to the procedure to implement the plan to prepare the above-mentioned map: The implementation of this plan, which will be done in 100 grids, will take 10 years, and every grid will be 16,500 square km.

He added: The Esfahan region was chosen as the first grid, for which the photography has been done and for which the mapping preparations are under way.

Concerning the importance and quality of the map being prepared, the head of the Plan and Budget Organization pointed out: This map, which is being prepared according to international standards, is particularly important in regards to expanding the mapping technical knowledge in Iran and the transfer of new technology.

Engineer Zanjani mentioned that 52 billion rials in funds have been allocated to the implementation of this project and said: The first "grid" of this map, for whose production 660 domestic experts have been employed, was approved on 25 Aban this year [16 November 1991] by the president and will be preserved among the national documents.

Pointing out that the printed grids for the comprehensive 1/25,000 map include Dowlatabad, Najafabad, Jahanabad and Shahin Shahr, he added: In 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], the plans for the preparation of five more grids will be carried out, and adding to those grids every year, the production will be completed in 1378 [1999-2000].

Engineer Zanjani pointed out: In the implementation of this plan, which will use satellite information, all the incidents, "events," methods and instructions will be documented, recorded and preserved as part of the national heritage.

Official on Cause of Bribery, Theft by Civil Servants

92AS0591F *London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 92 p 2*

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Niazi, the military prosecutor of Tehran Province, said to reporters investigating the causes of the uncontrollable increase in bribery and theft in the Islamic Republic that the low income of the people, their inability to provide for their

basic needs, and the critical economic problems they face are the main reasons for the employees in offices and agencies being polluted by embezzlement and violations. Niazi considered the other reasons for the spread of bribery to be bureaucracy, but Ayyub Bahinia, a university professor, told reporters: If the cause of bribery and violation of trust is severe economic need, after engaging in the act, the financial problems of the employee should be resolved and the repetition of this heinous act avoided, whereas such is not the case in practice, and dishonest employees continue their violations. This professor considered the lack of appointing trustworthy and honest employees for administrative positions another reason for the expansion of theft in the Islamic Republic. He said: Iranian Government officials, when they choose their colleagues, do not think about finding honest and competent people; personal relations are at the present time the standard for choosing employees in Iran.

Airport Delays Cut From Days to Hours

92AS0591M London KEYHAN in Persian 9 Jan 92 p 4

[Text] The administrative exit procedures for passengers from Mehrabad and other international airports of the country destined for foreign countries were reduced from 72 hours to at the most three hours. According to reports from Tehran, the new regulations for the bureaucratic procedures for the exit of passengers from the air borders of the country were put into effect in early Dey this year [December 1991], and from now on passengers will be able to go through all related exit procedures to depart for other countries three hours prior to their flight by submitting their passports to special desks in the airport. Davud Agah, the head of the office of the affairs of foreign nationals of the security forces of the country, announced some time ago that from now on, instead of submitting their passports three days prior to their flight, passengers can do so three hours in advance at the airport to undergo the necessary exit procedures. He said to reporters: "According to the ratification of the Supreme Administrative Council, all passengers departing for other countries can from now on, without going to the airline ticket offices, go to the airport three hours prior to their flight in order for the exit procedures to be handled in a short period of time. Davud Agah added: "This plan was earlier carried out successfully on a trial basis from the air borders of Bandar 'Abbas, Shiraz, Esfahan, Mashhad and Hormozgan."

Bokhara Persian Paper Resumes Publication

92AS0649C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 Feb 92 p 5

[Text] The Persian-language newspaper BOKHARA-YE SHARIF, the Persian-language source in the city of Boukhara, will again be published after an 80-year suspension.

Following political changes and then the rule of the Russian communists over this area, this publication was stopped.

This publication, which is issued in 3,200 copies, has printed on its masthead the distich verse by Rudaki, "no treasure is better than culture", and next to it is a woodcut showing the grave of Amir Esma'il Samani, the most revered leader of the Samanid dynasty, which was in Boukhara, and apparently this will appear on all of its issues.

Responsible for reviving this established publication BOKHARA-YE SHARIF is an organization called Aftab-e Sa'idian in Bokahra, which calls itself the civil center for Persians and Tajikis.

In the first editorial in BOKHARA-YE SHARIF, its operators said the goal in publishing this paper again is to spread the knowledge of God and to revive the traditions of ancestors, literature, and pure ethics.

They asked readers for financial assistance to help them continue their work, and explained that the writers for BOKHARA-YE SHARIF have absolutely no material expectations, and are doing this purely out of personal interest.

It is worth stating that the historic city of Bokhara, like many Persian-speaking centers in Central Asia such as Samarqand, Khwarizm, and Farghaneh, is a flourishing city in the Republic of Uzbekistan, where the Persian speakers number in the millions and have been deprived thus far of the opportunity to study and read academic and literary texts in Persian.

The only Persian-language publication that was allowed to be published in Uzbekistan was AVAZ-E TAJIK, which was printed with limited circulation in the city of Tashkent, the center of this republic.

Following the changes of the last few years in the former Soviet Union, two years ago a weekly Persian-language publication called AVAZ-E SAMARQAND began publishing in this city.

Persian Script Used on Torkemen Television

92AS0649D Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Feb 92 p 5

[Text] For the first time, the titles for the Voice of Torkemen television program of Ashkhabad began appearing in Persian script.

The Voice of Torkemen began operations following the opening of the land borders between Iran and Turkmenistan.

The Persian language has special importance in Turkmenistan, and a cultural institution recently began teaching Persian in Ashkhabad.

An official of this institution said the motivation for teaching Persian to Torkemens is the use of cultural and historical books, most of which are printed in Persian.

The Voice of Torkemen is one of the most insightful programs in Ashkhabad.

Numerous Health-Related Projects To Become Operational

92AS0592E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian
5 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] Tehran—KEYHAN-E HAVA'I NEWS SERVICE—8 Bahman—28 January—More than 550 health-care, treatment, and educational projects in the regional health organizations throughout the country will become operational during the days of Daheh-ye Fajr.

Dr. Reza Malekzadeh, minister of health care, treatment, and medical education, gave a press conference in which he announced the above. He said: Ten new hospitals in the cities of Tehran, Damavand, Urmia, Surian, Khanj, Birom, Hajereeh, Shahr-e Kord, Qazvin, Taybad, and Faridunkenar with a combined capacity of 1,800 beds are being opened.

He added: Likewise 82 new departments (including CCU, ACU, dialysis, central laboratories, and emergency) will be added to the treatment units.

Concerning the purchase of major diagnostic and treatment equipment Dr. Malekzadeh said: Ten CAT scan units, which have been purchased, will be put into operation during the Daheh-ye Fajr days in the cities of Shiraz, Zahedan, Tehran, Sanandaj, Urmia, Yazd, and Sari. Likewise, complete equipment purchased for 60 radiology, sonography, and endoscopy departments will be made available to the nation's teaching hospitals.

He also announced the opening of eight lithotritter (an instrument that breaks kidney stones) units. He added:

In addition, 13 angiography and coronary units are being opened in the cities of Tehran, Shiraz, Esfahan, Zahedan, Kerman, Tabriz, Mashhad, Urmia, Rasht, Bakhteran, and Ahvaz are being established, eight of which will be put into operation by the end of Daheh-ye Fajr, the rest to be opened in the next few months.

Dr. Malekzadeh discussed the medical and health care services provided to rural people in the current year. He said: More than 700 rural health-care houses have been built this year, of which 250 are being prepared to become operational during the blessed Daheh-ye Fajr days. Similarly, 100 rural maternity wards have been prepared in the villages, of which 60 units will go into operation during Daheh-ye Fajr days, the remainder by the end of the current year [20 March 1992]. Likewise, of the 250 health-care and treatment centers being built, 70 will be opened during Daheh-ye Fajr days.

The minister of health care, treatment, and medical education discussed the huge costs of building health-care and treatment centers. He said: By the time it is put to use, every hospital bed costs about 50 million rials. The cost of every lithotritter is about \$2 million, and likewise it costs \$1.5 million to purchase each new radiology unit.

He cited heart attacks and strokes as the primary causes of death in Iran in the year 1369 [21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991]. He added: 37.5 percent of last year's deaths were caused by heart attacks and strokes, 13.5 percent by accidents, 6 percent by cancer and the rest by other causes.

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